

tration of his democratic university. He was called upon incessantly and was a most patient and useful counselor. It is only natural to assume that his misgivings in devoting so much time to this type of work were assuaged by his feeling that he was helpful, and he surely had some interest in this type of intellectual activity. His sense of duty was no doubt an important factor.

To an outside observer Professor Hyde's academic career may have seemed of about the same nature of that of the usual college professor, more successful in some respects, less so perhaps in others. Only a few were familiar with a less apparent versatility which when fully realized marked him as unusual. There was in him a strain of the artistic and an even more striking strain of the philosophical. In the former connection he was especially interested in the use of lines. He studied intensively available types of drawings and etchings, partly from an inherent interest, partly to enable him to produce with the desired degree of satisfaction the graphic representations of his work. The drawings in his work on the Waverly Formation illustrate his success in such portrayals.

To a few he directly revealed his philosophical bent. Others appreciated this from his lectures and his conversation. Practical results of this bent are seen in some of his informal essays, in his annotations in his books, his lectures, the conferences he held with students in discussing their religious problems. However his intense devotion to these fields of thought, revealed more clearly after his death, comes as a surprise to some even who knew him well.

Especially noteworthy among his interests was book collecting. One lot, collected no doubt with a sense of humor, he called his "monkey books," a lot of specious undisciplined writings aimed at evolution. A serious and larger collection includes books which he used to clarify his ideas not on what one might call "Conflict of Science and Theology," but rather on the consonance of scientific and spiritual interests. His most valuable

collection is an outstanding set of biographies and autobiographies of scientists and naturalists.

HIPPOLYTE GRUENER

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

PROFESSOR STANLEY ROSSITER BENEDICT, for many years head of the department of biochemistry at Cornell University Medical College, died suddenly on December 21. He was fifty-two years old.

DR. MARSHALL AVERY HOWE, director of the New York Botanical Garden, died on December 24 at the age of sixty-nine years.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, professor of metallurgy at Columbia University, died suddenly on December 16 at the age of sixty years.

DR. J. K. FOTHERINGHAM, reader in ancient astronomy and chronology in the University of Oxford and honorary assistant in the University Observatory since 1925, died at Dumbarrow on December 12 at the age of sixty-two years.

JOHN NICHOLAS VROOMAN VEDDER, professor of thermodynamics at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., died on December 26. He was sixty-three years old.

A PORTRAIT of the late Charles Proteus Steinmetz, of the General Electric Company, was unveiled on December 14 in the assembly hall of the Steinmetz High School, Chicago. The portrait is the gift of the General Electric Company. It was accepted on behalf of the school by Mayor Kelly and by Principal D. F. O'Hearn.

ACCORDING to a wireless dispatch to *The New York Times*, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Roald Amundsen's discovery of the South Pole was marked on December 14 by a meeting in the polar museum aboard Dr. Fridtjof Nansen's vessel *Fram*, in which tablets were unveiled in memory of Nansen and Captain Otto Sverdrup by Knud Ringnes, chairman of the *Fram* committee, and in memory of Amundsen by Knut Doaaas.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

THE British Commonwealth Scientific Conference met recently in London, under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Howell Thomas. The *London Times* reports that the commonwealth delegates were impressed by the effectiveness of the system administered by the executive council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and favored the continuance and the extension of this system.

In his address Sir Charles pointed out that after having been on trial for seven years this cooperative commonwealth scheme may be said to be firmly established on a permanent basis, and that it shows "two main factors which underlie successful inter-imperial scientific cooperation. One is that the objective must be clearly defined, strictly limited in scope and of a nature which appeals to all units of the commonwealth. The second is that the executive body must owe allegiance to no particular government, but be strictly rep-

representative of all and constituted on a basis of complete equality. Clearly in such a case every decision taken must be unanimous; there can be no question of voting, for no scheme could proceed with any prospect of success if there were even one dissident."

He continued:

The present work of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux aims at keeping research workers in close touch with all that is going on throughout the world in their respective fields of science. The course of scientific work in the sciences related to agriculture is proceeding so rapidly that such an information service is essential. The service incidentally is available on payment to workers outside the Empire.

The information side of the council's work is financed strictly on the principle laid down by the Imperial Committee on Economic Cooperation and Consultation. The executive council has other duties in which Commonwealth Governments are interested. One in particular affords an example of a scientific activity in which all Commonwealth Governments are either actually or potentially interested, and which is therefore peculiarly suitable for inter-Imperial treatment. This is the parasite laboratory established at Farnham Royal, Slough, to study and distribute throughout the Empire the insect parasites which attack injurious insects and noxious weeds. Certain Dominions are making more use than others of its services at the moment, but all realize the potential value of the work. Hence all are concerned to preserve intact the basic staff, while the individual requests for help can be dealt with on the basis of payment for services rendered.

To a less extent the same principle applies in the case of the Institutes of Entomology and Mycology, dealing respectively with insects and fungi. Their work is partly information in providing plant pathologists throughout the Empire with summarized accounts of the progress of scientific development, and partly the identification of specimens submitted. The extent to which the various Dominions and Colonies benefit from this service determines the contributions made towards its maintenance. Finally, the executive council provides an avenue through which certain Dominions may contribute to research projects in which they are specially interested, such as wool research at Torridon, Leeds, and low temperature storage and transport research at Cambridge and the Ditton laboratory.

NEW ADDITION TO VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL

THE new addition to the Hospital and Medical School of Vanderbilt University, which is now under construction and will be completed by the autumn of 1937, will provide an increase of about 1,500,000 cubic feet to the present medical building. This is expected to add greatly to the efficiency and range of service in the University Hospital. Facilities of the Medical School will be increased also and better adapted to the needs of medical education. This development has

been made possible by the donation of \$2,500,000 from the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Of this amount about \$950,000 will be expended on the equipment and building.

This gift affords facilities for improving the teaching, especially in obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. An increased number of beds will be provided and the laboratory facilities will likewise be increased for research.

There will be 155 additional beds in the new addition, which will mean, including those in the present building, a total number of about 375 beds. Of this number as many as 90 beds will be used for private and semi-private patients. There will be about 40 beds for teaching pediatrics and 30 beds for clinical instruction in obstetrics. A ward will be provided also for gynecology, including 18 beds.

The Out-patient Service will be enlarged so as to provide special quarters for obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. The Department of Radiology will be moved to the second floor level in the south end of the new addition. This will afford increased space and better equipment for this service. The Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health will be moved into the north wing of the new addition, and the rooms now occupied by this department will, in large measure, be used for the extension of the stock room of the Medical Library. This will make it possible to enlarge the reading room of the library.

THE ASIATIC PRIMATE EXPEDITION

INVESTIGATORS from Harvard University, Bard College and the Johns Hopkins University, according to an announcement in *The Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, left at the end of December for Siam, Borneo and Sumatra in order to study the Asiatic anthropoid apes, especially the gibbon, in their native forests. Others will start in January.

Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., assistant curator of mammals at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, who has made many studies of anthropoid apes, leads the group. The other members are: Dr. Adolph H. Schultz, associate professor of physical anthropology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, primate morphologist; Dr. C. R. Carpenter, lecturer in psychology at Bard College, who has made studies of the social life of monkeys in Central America; Sherwood L. Washburn, who holds a Sheldon traveling fellowship in anthropology; John A. Griswold, Jr., research assistant in the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology; Andrew Wylie, of Washington, D. C., special assistant for the collecting of large mammals, and John T. Coolidge, Jr., of Milton, Mass., artist and photographer.

Some members of the expedition sailed from New